

July 8, 2002

Examiner Erez
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RE: Serial No. 09/459,522BAL-64 (BA-00117)
ENDOTRACHEAL CATHETER AND MANIFOLD ASSEMBLY
WITH IMPROVED VALVE

Dear Examiner Erez:


As we discussed today on the telephone I am resending the references for the IDS originally sent to the PTO on May 22, 2001. As you indicated the references apparently became separated after receipt by the PTO as you received the 1449, but not the references.

For your convenience, I have also prepared a replacement 1449. Please note, however, that the replacement 1449 attached hereto appears slightly different than the original. The original was prepared by outside counsel while the replacement was prepared in-house. Although the format is different, the information contained therein should be the same. Should you have any questions or concerns about this, please do not hesitate to contact me at 770-587-7183.

This letter will confirm your comments during our telephone call, which indicated that upon receipt of the replacement set of references you would consider each. Finally, at your instruction, no fee is included herewith or authorized hereby for the filing of the duplicate IDS, because the documents were timely filed with the PTO and subsequently misplaced.

Again, thank you for your assistance in this matter. Please call me with any questions.

Regards,



William W. Letson

WWL:cn

Enclosures